PATENT Preliminary Amendment Dated: September 27, 2006 Docket Number 1912USWO

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 (Currently amended) System for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap (1) connected via at least one beverage line (3) to at least one coupling means (4) for a keg or other beverage container (5). said cleaning system comprising at least one additional cleaning line lines (8), a control unit (11) and at least one switching means (14) connected to the control unit (11) for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system,

eharacterized in that wherein the switching means (14) is designed as an electronic and/or or a mechanical key switch so that the system is operable only by authorized personnel.

- 2. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the switching means (14) in the form of an electronic key switch is selected from the group consisting of provided as a key pad, or as a contact card reader, or contactless card reader, and or as a transponder.
- 3 (Currently amended) System according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that-wherein the switching means (14) as a mechanical key switch is provided as a socket (15) with a detachable mechanical or electro-mechanical key.
- 4. (Currently amended) System according to claim 3, characterized in that wherein the key element of an electro-mechanical key (16) is a permanent magnet and the switching element assigned to the socket (15) is a magneto-reactive element, in particular a Hall-sensor.

5. (Currently amended) System according to <u>claim 1</u>, any one of the preceding claims, eharacterized in that <u>wherein</u> the switching means (14) in connection with the control unit (11) is provided with a safety feature preventing removal of the key (16) from the socket (15) before the end of the cleaning sequence.

- 6. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1, for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said-beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap (1) connected via at least one beverage line (3) to at least one coupling means (4) for a keg or other beverage container (5), said cleaning system comprising additional cleaning lines (8), a control unit (11) and at least one switching means (14) connected to the control unit (11) for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system, preferably according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that wherein the switching means (14) is additionally provided with further comprises an optical status indicator (17).
- (Currently amended) System according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein the
 optical status indicator (17) is provided by a lamp or lamps lighting up in different colours and/or
 in different intervals.
- 8. (Currently amended) System according to claim 7, eharacterized in that wherein the optical status indicator (17) is provided by a transparent socket (15) illuminated from behind by a lamp or lamps with light of different colour end/or in different intervals, wherein, preferably, the lamp or lamps are attached to or part of the socket (15).
- 9. (Currently amended) System according to any one of the claims claim 6 to 8, eharacterized in that wherein the control unit (11) provides for a cleaning interval setting and/or calculation and the optical status indicator (17) is operable by the control unit (11) in an alerting mode indicating that cleaning of the beverage line system is due or overdue.

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(Currently amended) System according to claim 9, eharacterized in that wherein the
alerting mode is indicated by blinking of the optical status indicator (17) alternatingly in red and
green.

- 11. (Currently amended) System according to any one of the preceding claims claim 1, eharacterized in that wherein after insertion of the key (16) or other activation of the switching means (14) there is provided a preliminary interval where removal of the key (16) or deactivation of the switching means (14) will not start the cleaning cycle but will start a simple rinsing step with water.
- 12. (Currently amended) System according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, claim 1, wherein irrespective of the location of the control unit (11), the switching means (14) is positioned next to the beverage tap (1).
- (New) System according to claim 6, wherein the optical status indicator is a display means with readings in text or symbols.